



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/619,489

07/16/2003

Minoru Igarashi

04208.0183

8855

22852

7590

02/22/2006

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER  
LLP

901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/619,489	IGARASHI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Thanh-Tam T. Le	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 13 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 8-10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                         |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                                |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____                                                             | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The RCE filed 2/13/06 is acknowledged.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 3, 8-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Walden (5,120,256).

Regarding claims 9-10 and 12, Walden, figures 2-7, disclose a connector for connecting circuit boards with each other, comprising:

- a first connector section (12) disposed on a first circuit board (16) and having contact terminals (not shown) electrically connected to an electro-conductive layer of the first circuit board; and
- a second connector section (121) disposed on a second circuit board (not shown) and having terminals (not shown) electrically connected to an electro-conductive layer of the second circuit board;

wherein when the first connector section is coupled to the second connector section, non-elastic metallic engaging portions (114A, figures 4 and 7 show the metallic engaging portions is engaged against to a side surface (42) of the first connector section ) provided in the first connector section are latched with elastic metallic

Art Unit: 2839

projections (114A, figures 5 and 7 show metallic projections 114A is spaced from a side surface of the second connector section by a distance (44)) provided on an inner surface of an elastic piece (10) provided in the second connector section to hold the first connector section on the second connector section, the engaging portions in the first connector section comprise nibs (figure 7, not labeled), the nibs projecting away from the first connector, and a recess (56, figure 2) is formed for allowing a portion of the elastic piece being engaged in the second connector section to advance/retract at a base of the second connector section.

Regarding claim 3, the non-elastic metallic engaging portion and the elastic piece are formed in a thin sheet-like form separately from the base for supporting the contact terminals in the second connector section

Regarding claim 8, the engaging portions of the first connector section are embedded in one piece and fixed in the base of the first connector section.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 11 and 13-14 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the first and second connector sections having leg sections which are bent alongside of the first and second contact terminals, respectively, as set forth in the claimed combination.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed 2/13/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues Walden fails to teach the claimed "non-elastic metallic engaging projections provided in the first connector section".

The Examiner disagrees. Although a retaining clip (80) is resiliently, but when it's engaged against to a side surface (42) of the first connector section (12), it became a non-elastic metallic engaging projection (shows in figures 4 and 7).

For the above reason, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

### ***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2839

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Le', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thanh-Tam T. Le  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

TL.  
2/18/06.